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Final Report on the Development of the Patterns Power Library

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Abstract

Beginning library books were needed so that young braille readers could practice their reading skills and discover that reading can be fun. Appropriate sets of books were developed which paralleled the reading skills learned on the Preprimer through the Third Reader levels of Patterns. Notes for Teachers on each level provides helps for teachers including activities related to each book and vocabulary and reading skills required so that students in other reading series can also use the library books. All materials were reviewed by three experts and revised before being made available through the American Printing House for the Blind.

Final Report on the Development of the Patterns Power Library

Very few books are available in braille on the early primary levels. Therefore, young braille readers are hampered in their ability to practice their newly acquired reading skills and to begin acquiring the habit of reading for fun. The Patterns Power Library which is called the Patterns Library Series helps to meet these needs.

The purpose of this project was to develop sets of braille books which could be used in conjunction with Patterns: The Primary Braille Reading Program from Preprimer through Third Reader levels and with appropriate levels of other reading series to provide a means of practicing reading skills and discovering that reading can be fun.

Subjects

Since these books were developed for pupils who are reading in Patterns and utilitize the same reading skills and vocabulary as the corresponding level of Patterns which should be completed, and since the development of Patterns included extensive field testing, field testing of the library books involving subjects was considered to be unnecessary.

Materials

Braille books were specially written and/or selected for young braille readers so that the skills and vocabulary needed to read the books are the same as the ones taught on a specific level of

Patterns. The size of the books and the format for the braille pages is the same as that used for the student materials on the corresponding level of Patterns. All books are paperbacks. At the end of each book, there are self-help word introduction pages. To encourage pupils to think about what they are reading, each book also includes question and activity pages. Some books also include raised-line drawings. Each level of the Patterns Library Series contains a wide variety of content, such as math, folk tales, poems, how-to articles, etc. selected especially for the young visually handicapped reader. The books on each level may be read in any order desired. Here are the final selections included on each level:

Preprimer Level (24 books)

I

A Home and a Tree

In the Sand

Pam and Tim Play

Rat and Friends

What Can Tim Do?

Work to Do

II

Books

A Bus and a Car

Legs

Looking for Meg

Playing Out

Reading

III

Animal Ways

Animals Who Help

Bats and Rats

Games to Play

Good Friends

Hearing and Feeling

Here is Tim

Just for Fun

Rings and Things

The Pup and the Cat

Things to Do

With Mom and Dad

Preprimer Level (27 books)

All About Jean

The Animal with Lots of Freinds

The City Cat and the Far Cat

Do It Now

Do Not Eat Me!

The Farm Train

From Eggs to Chicks

Jill's 2 Homes

King Midas

Life in the Big City

A Little New Home

Mark and the Tooth Doctor

My Word Book

Near a City

New Things

Not Just Like Us

An Old Home in a Little City

On the Farm

The Pancake

The Pup on the Farm

The Runaway Cart

Shopping Round and Round

Sitting with Sam

Things Can Talk Too

What Am I?

What the Fish Found Out

Who Will Win?

First Reader Level (23 books)

The ABC Zoo

A Bad Time with Rime

Beef Stew

The Big Move

Big People are Funny

The Day Our TV Broke Down

Duckling Five

Fingertips, The Story of Stevie Wonder

Henny Penny

Junk Day on Juniper Street

Magnets

Make It! Play It!

The Mystery of the Boy Next Door

No Cook Cookbook

No Go the Donkey

Snowman For Sale

Sounds All Around You

The Super Cell Twins

The Turtle Picnic and Other Stories

Two of Everything

Two Smart Kids

Where and When

Wonder Boy and the Boom Boom

Second Reader Level (23 books)

The ABC Book of Machines

The Boy Who Could Find Anything

Clarence and the Burglar

Clarence and the Cat

The Day Luis Was Lost

An Eskimo Birthday

Everyone Ready?

George Washington

Gus Was a Friendly Ghost

The Happy Baker

Harold Thinks Big

How I Found Myself at the Fair

I Can't Always Hear You

I Hate My Name

I Won't Go Without a Father

It's Not My Fault

More Potatoes

Mr. Koonan's Bargain

Poems to Think About and Smile at

Rhoda's Restaurant

Space and Time

Tell Them My Name is Amanda

Ty's One Man Band

Third Reader Level (22 books)

Air Around Us

Be Brave, Charlie

Bumps in the Night

Cam Janson and the Mystery of the Stolen Diamonds

The Desert People

Guess What Rocks Do

Jokes and Fun

Major: The Story of A Black Bear

Mary McLeod Bethune

Molly's Hannibal

The Mound Builders

The Mystery of Planet X

The Mystery of Plum Park Pony

Names, Sets, and Numbers

Patrick and the Fairy Thief

Positively No Pets Allowed

Salt Is Better Than Gold

Solve a Mystery, Book 1

Sprout and the Dog Sitter

Squanto, Indian Adventurer

Teach Us, Amelia Bedelia

What Is That Sound?

Teaching helps for each level are contained in a booklet called Notes for Teachers. For each braille book on a level, the notes include (1) a brief summary of the contents, (2) a list of decodable words on the "New Words" pages, (3) a list of question and/or activity pages, and (4) suggestions and activities for building related concepts. Also included at each level are sound/symbol associations and other decoding skills known by children reading in Patterns and needed by children reading in other series in order to read these library books.

Procedure

Work on this project began in early 1981. Eddy Jo Bradley, the directing editor of Patterns, was responsible for writing all original books for the Preprimer and Primer levels and some original books for the First and Second Reader levels. Other books for the First, Second, and Third Reader levels were selected especially for young braille readers from good children's books not previously available in braille. The Spache Readability Formula (1974 Rev.) was used to determine the difficulty of the content and vocabulary and the reading levels of the books. When necessary, familiar or decodable words were substituted for words not in the Patterns vocabulary. Inappropriate skills and concepts were edited out. Information for each book was gathered together and written in Notes for Teachers.

As the materials for each level of the Patterns Library Series were ready, they were sent to three teachers who were familiar with the various levels of Patterns for review. Freda Henderson from the Tennessee School for the Blind, Deanna Yaeger Scoggins from the Kentucky School for the Blind, and Alice Queensen from the Missouri School for the Blind served in this capacity. These expert reviewers determined such things as appropriateness and variety of the selections and made suggestions for building related concepts as well as examining the skills and vocabulary used.

Data Analysis

Since the amount of data generated in this project was minimal with only three reviewers, data analysis would have been insignificant. Instead, each review was judged on its own merit, and changes were made in the library materials accordingly.

Results

Revisions were made based on the information from the reviews. Final book selections were determined. When permission to include each selection in braille in a Patterns Library Series was secured, the level was turned over to the Editorial Department at the American Printing House for the Blind for production. The five levels of the Patterns Library Series were first available for purchase as follows:

Preprimer level	November 1982
Primer level	June 1983
First Reader level	March 1984
Second Reader level	March 1985
Third Reader level	May 1985

Production sets of each level were sent in with copyright applications, and all five levels have now been copyrighted.

Purchase price for an entire kit of 22-27 braille books plus the Notes for Teachers in the Patterns Library Series ranges from $41.18-$60.39 at the present time.

Sales have been good, particularly for the early levels which have been available for the longest amount of time.

Discussion

The primary suggestion that has been made for improving the Patterns Library Series is that a print copy of the braille books be included so that sighted parents can help their children as they read the books at home. This idea was considered early in the development of the series and was thought by the reviewers to be unnecessary considering the additional cost it would add. If APH were to consider adding a print edition at some future date, it would be necessary to recontact all of the original sources to request permission to do a print edition. This permission might prove difficult to secure.

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